

REMARKS

ACTION IS INCOMPLETE FOR OVERLOOKING IDS FILED DECEMBER 31, 2002

The Examiner did not consider the IDS filed December 31, 2002 and accordingly the Action is incomplete.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to process the IDS and to consider the references and execute the attached Form PTO-1449 to confirm the same and to return the executed form to the undersigned counsel for applicants.

To the extent the Examiner seeks to cite and rely upon any of the references of the IDS in the rejection of claims herein, it is requested that any such rejection be presented in a supplement to the present Office Action and that the same remain a first Office Action on the merits.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, 16, 19-24, 26, and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Dawson. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

TRAVERSE OF THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In response to the above prior art rejection, claims 1, 5, 11, 13, 16, 19, 21-24, 27, and 27 have been amended to clarify patentable distinctions of the invention over Dawson. More particularly, it is clarified in these claims as now amended that electronic mail in accordance with the claimed invention herein includes a symbol including image information within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, where the electronic signature file includes an email address of a sender.

In contrast to the above character of the claimed invention, Dawson merely proposes a method of sending image information with electronic mail. Col. 7, lines 65-66 of Dawson, referred to by the Examiner, merely mentions signing of a message by a thumbnail portrait of the sender. In other words, instead of sending the words "Yours Truly", a thumbnail portrait of the sender is sent with the electronic mail.

Further, as described in col. 24, lines 6-17 of Dawson, the thumbnail (image

information)--and the email address are input separately as shown in Fig. 16. In Fig. 16, the thumbnail is input in a box next to the box 1621 for inputting the email address (text). Such a method of separately inputting the image information and the email address is completely different from the present invention which inputs both the image information and the email address within an electronic signature file of the email, as shown in Fig. 4 of the present application.

Therefore, Dawson fails to teach or suggest sending electronic mail in which a symbol including image information is included within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, and wherein the electronic signature file includes an email address of a sender.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, 16, 19-24, 26, and 27 are allowable over Dawson.

ITEMS 18-21: REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-5, 7, 8, 10-13, 16, 19-24, 26, AND 27 UNDER 35 USC § 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER DAWSON IN VIEW OF LU ET AL.

Claims 1, 5, 1, 13, 16, 19, 21-24, 26, and 27 are amended in the foregoing to clarify that electronic mail in accordance with the invention includes a symbol including image information within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, wherein the electronic signature file includes an email address of a sender.

Dawson is discussed above.

Lu et al. is merely cited as teaching a system which is accessed when an image of a person's face is compared with a stored image and approved. However, Lu et al. fails to teach or suggest sending an electronic mail in which a symbol including image information is included within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, where the electronic signature file includes an email address of a sender.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-13, 16, 19-24, 26, and 27 are allowable over Dawson and Lu et al.

ITEMS 22-28: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, AND 4-28 UNDER 35 USC 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER DAWSON IN VIEW OF THE "WEB PAGE EMBEDDING" ARTICLE

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13-19, and 21-29 are amended in the foregoing to clarify that electronic mail in accordance with the invention includes a symbol including image information within an electronic signature file of the electronic mail, wherein the electronic signature file includes an email address of a sender.

Dawson is discussed above.

The Web Page Embedding article is cited as teaching how to embed a web page in an email. However, the Web Page Embedding article fails to teach or suggest sending electronic mail in which a symbol including image information is included within electronic signature file of the electronic mail, wherein the electronic signature file includes an email address of a sender.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, and 4-28 are allowable over Dawson and the Web Page Embedding article.

CONCLUSION

There being no further objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic apparatus comprising:
a transmitter transmitting [an] electronic mail in which a symbol including image information₁ which enables a sender to be specified therefrom₁ is included within an electronic signature [information] file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender.
2. (AS UNAMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a generator generating the image information by inputting an image of the sender.
3. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said transmitter transmits the electronic mail only when an error₁ between the image information generated by said generator and prestored image information₁ is within a predetermined range.
4. (AS UNAMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image information includes an image related to at least a face of the sender.
5. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
an adding unit adding to the electronic signature [information] file a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail.
6. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the parameter indicates the importance of the electronic mail by a display format of the electronic signature [information] file.
7. (AS UNAMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the parameter includes information which indicates a display priority order of the electronic mail.

8. (AS UNAMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the parameter includes character, image and/or audio information indicating a summary of the electronic mail.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information which indicates the display priority order of the electronic mail includes at least one of a display position and a display timing of the electronic signature [information] file.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the symbol includes information [used for] affording linking to the sender.

11. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic apparatus comprising:
a receiver receiving [an] electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature [information] file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender; and
a display unit displaying the image information of the electronic mail.

12. (AS UNAMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the image information includes an image related to at least a face of the sender.

13. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the electronic signature [information] file further includes a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail, and further comprising:
a recognizing unit recognizing the importance based on the parameter.

14. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said receiver receives information which indicates an importance of the electronic signature [information] file, and further comprising:
a display controller displaying, based on the information which indicates the importance of the electronic signature [information] file, the electronic signature [information] file on said display unit with a format which enables recognition of the importance.

15. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the information which indicates the importance of the signature information is included within the electronic signature [information] file.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said receiver receives information which indicates a display priority order of the electronic signature [information] file, and further comprising:

a determining unit determining a display position of the electronic signature [information] file based on the information which indicates the display priority order of the electronic signature [information] file.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said receiver receives information which indicates a display priority order of the electronic signature [information] file, and further comprising:

a determining unit determining a display timing of the electronic signature [information] file based on the information which indicates the display priority order of the electronic signature [information] file.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the information which indicates the display priority order of the electronic signature [information] file is included within the electronic signature [information] file.

19. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the electronic signature [information] file includes character, image and/or audio information indicating a summary of the electronic mail.

20. (AS UNAMENDED) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the symbol includes information used for linking to the sender.

21. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic apparatus comprising:
a receiver receiving an electronic mail including at least an electronic signature [information] file and information which indicates an importance thereof, said electronic signature file including an email address of a sender;

a display unit displaying the electronic mail; and
a display controller displaying the signature information on said display unit with a format which enables recognition of the importance, based on the information which indicates the importance.

22. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic apparatus comprising:
a transmitter transmitting an electronic mail by adding to an electronic signature [information] file of the electronic mail a parameter which indicates an importance of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of a sender.

23. (ONCE AMENDED) A control apparatus for an electronic apparatus having a transmitter, comprising:
a controller controlling the transmitter to transmit [an] electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature [information] file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender.

24. (ONCE AMENDED) A control apparatus for an electronic apparatus having a receiver receiving an electronic mail and a display unit displaying the received electronic mail, comprising:

a controller controlling said receiver to receive an electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature [information] file of the electronic mail, and [for] controlling said display unit to display the image information of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender.

25. (ONCE AMENDED) A control apparatus for an electronic apparatus having a receiver receiving [an] electronic mail including at least an electronic signature [information] file and information which indicates an importance thereof and a display unit displaying the received electronic mail, comprising:

a display controller controlling said display unit to display the electronic signature [information] file with a format which enables recognition of the importance, based on the information which indicates the importance, said electronic signature file including an email

address of a sender.

26. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to have an electronic mail function, comprising:
a transmitting section causing the computer to transmit [an] electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature [information] file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender.

27. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to have an electronic mail function, comprising:
a receiving section causing the computer to receive an electronic mail in which a symbol including image information which enables a sender to be specified therefrom is included within an electronic signature [information] file of the electronic mail, said electronic signature file including an email address of the sender; and
a display section causing the computer to display the image information of the electronic mail.

28. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium as which stores a program for causing a computer to have an electronic mail function, comprising:
a receiving section causing the computer to receive [an] electronic mail including at least an electronic signature [information] file and information which indicates an importance thereof, said electronic signature file including an email address of a sender;
a display section causing the computer to display the electronic mail; and
a display control section causing the computer to display the electronic signature [information] file by said display section with a format which enables recognition of the importance, based on the information which indicates the importance.